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Letter dated 3 April 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 27 and 31 March and on 1 April 1997.

On 1 April, at 1349 hours, two F-4 Turkish military planes violated the Nicosia flight information region and national airspace of the Republic, flying over the coast of Kyrenia, and departed at 1443 hours, heading towards Turkey. On the same day, at 1509 hours, four F-4s once again violated the Nicosia flight information region, flying over the same areas.

On 27 March, at 1202 hours, a Turkish military aircraft, of type RF-4, entered the north-western flight information region of Nicosia, violated the national airspace of the Republic, flying over the monastery of Kormakitis, and exited at 1217 hours.

On 31 March, at 1025 hours, two F-4 Turkish military planes violated the national airspace of the Republic and the Nicosia flight information region, flying over the area of Morphou and the Pendadaktylos mountain range at 1029 hours, and then exited in a direction towards Turkey. On the same day, at 1349 hours, the two military aircraft re-entered the flight information region of Nicosia, violated the airspace of the Republic, flying over the area of Kyrenia and the Pendadaktylos mountain range.

Such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the airspace of the Republic are in violation of international air traffic rules and seriously endanger civil aviation flights over Cyprus. At the same time,

they heighten tension in Cyprus and are in contravention of the provisions of repeated Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to protest strongly against the new violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, which are in complete disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) J. C. DROUSHIOTIS
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.